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Testimony of Curt Stubbs in Support of Senate Bill 374, an Act Establishing Licensing of Millwright Contractors and Journeymen

Chairman Doyle, Chairman Baram, members of the General Law Committee, Good Afternoon. My name is Curt Stubbs; I live in Hartford. On behalf of the Eastern Millwrights Regional Council I want to voice our support for Senate Bill 374.

We would support a minor change suggested by the Plumbers and Pipefitters in Section 1 of the bill which modifies Section 20-330, Sub-section 23 of the Connecticut General Statutes defining millwright work. After "used in the manufacturing process" we suggest adding "commencing at the downstream side of the closest valve to such machinery." This is the traditional dividing line between millwright work and pipefitting.

This Bill responds to the need for ensuring that the millwrights who work on vital equipment in power plants and factories have the necessary training, skills and experience to maintain, and repair the equipment safely, quickly, and correctly. Senate Bill 374, if passed into law, would require millwrights to have four years of experience, and require passing a licensing examination.

Unless millwright work is performed correctly, there is a potential in power plants, for workers to be exposed to hazards including explosive gases and highly pressurized steam. Diligent application of the skills of millwrights is required to prevent damage to expensive, and delicate machinery, and to prevent disruption of electrical power to Connecticut's residents and businesses. Utilizing millwrights with sufficient skills to pass a licensing examination will help minimize the length of maintenance or repair shutdowns at power plants.

Work at Connecticut's power generating facilities has been, and under the provisions of the bill, will continue to be, a cooperative venture. As written, and as modified by the suggested change, the bill's provisions will not disrupt the harmonious relationship among the various trades working in Connecticut facilities. The millwrights have met with leaders of Connecticut's licensed trades, asking for suggestions on the Bill's language, to ensure that it does not infringe on the work performed by, currently licensed trades. With the change suggested by the plumbers and pipefitters, I believe all of the licensed trades are satisfied with its provisions. Representatives of licensed trades are here today, and they may be able to articulate their position more clearly. And, we want to be clear that the Millwrights support legislation that